

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 867

By Litz

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. John Harrison Kinser for his honorable and astute service to the people of Morristown.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John Harrison Kinser is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinser is a highly respected member of the Morristown community, in which he has practiced medicine for forty-four years; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Athens, John Kinser graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1946 and attended medical school at the University of Tennessee at Memphis, from which he graduated in 1950; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from medical school, Dr. Kinser rendered sterling service as a member of the United States Air Force, which he served until 1953, when he was discharged at the rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinser then completed a rotating internship/residency at St. Mary's Hospital in Knoxville; praised for his intelligence and tenacity, he excelled in rotations in general medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. Following his residency, he began practicing at the Neighbor's Clinic in Morristown; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinser has served with acumen as a member of the medical staff at the Morristown-Hamblen County Hospital since it was first built in July of 1955; and

WHEREAS, he maintained a busy family practice while staffing the hospital's Emergency Room and Operating Room and delivering more than one thousand new

Morristownians; a plaque hangs in one of the hospital delivery suites in honor of Dr. Kinser's record of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinser served forty-two years as the Hamblen County Physician providing or supervising all medical care for prisoners at the Hamblen County Jail; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinser worked assiduously as the county's only Medical Examiner for forty-four years, since the creation of the position in 1964; in that role, his insight and medical instincts have proven invaluable; and

WHEREAS, he has lent his time and professional talents to a variety of hospital committees and professional organizations, including standing as Chief of Staff and Chairman of the General/Family Practice Department, as founding member of the Lakeway Medical Society, and as a member of the Board of Directors of Morristown-Hamblen County Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kinser has ushered in a new age of medicine during his tenure; an author of the medical staff's original by-laws, his pursuit of quality healthcare has cultivated an atmosphere which respects the needs of each patient; and

WHEREAS, widely revered for his intelligence, skill, instincts, and compassion, Dr. Kinser, on being asked how many babies he had delivered, once responded, "the number doesn't matter, it's the one patient at a time that counts;" and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a physician, Dr. Kinser has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dr. Kinser is grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Mary C. "Betty" Campbell, whom he married in 1948; together they are the proud parents of four children, Mrs. Kay Senter, Ms. Brenda Johnson, Ms. Vicki Kinser, and the late John H. Kinser, who died in 1975; and

WHEREAS, the Kinsers' enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John Kinser is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. John Harrison Kinser for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Morristown as a physician and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.